

# conscience

Vol. 8 No. 3

Newspaper of the Hofstra School of Law © 1980

October 9, 1980

## ★ ★ EXTRA ★ ★ EDITORIAL ★ ★ EXTRA ★ ★

### IN NEED OF A CPLR COURSE

Hofstra Law School's faculty voted not to offer a CPLR course for credit this spring. Last month, CONSCIENCE published the faculty committee report which reviewed last spring's three credit CPLR course taught by Law Professor David Siegel. How that committee, and later the full faculty, could find that a CPLR course has no value and should not be offered for credit is beyond us.

First, a CPLR course for credit would ensure that students with typically heavy course loads would have the necessary time to do the work which a graded CPLR course entails. Second, other law schools—for example, N.Y.U. (4 credits), Buffalo (3 credits), Syracuse (3 credits), Albany (8 credits), Cornell (3 credits), Brooklyn (5 credits), St. John's (6 credits), Pace (4 credits), Seton Hall (2 credits), Cardozo (4 credits), Suffolk (Boston, Mass., 2 credits), and New York (6 credits)—offer such courses. Third, some schools offer courses in various states' civil practices and procedures as well. Fourth, many of the 1980 Hofstra Law School graduates reported that the course was "indispensable," particularly because four of the six bar exam essay questions involved New York civil practice.

In the Spring of 1980, the law school offered a CPLR course for third-year students "as an experiment." That course was reviewed by the faculty committee, who failed to analyze the performance of Hofstra Law School's class of 1980 on the July Bar. Those results should have been evaluated by the committee; indeed, the faculty should have done likewise.

Hopefully, the students who attended the Wednesday, October 1, 1980 Dean's Hour adequately voiced their need for a CPLR course with credit. Likewise, students have told professors that they need and want the course. The faculty, however, disagreed with students and voted at their Thursday, October 2, 1980 meeting not to offer a course for credit (A CPLR course for no credit was also turned down). While faculty support for a CPLR course appears weak, perhaps, after a re-assessment of the students' arguments for the New York Practice course, they might reconsider and vote for it. Perhaps they could still get the "well-known" and reputedly excellent teacher, David Siegel, to teach once again. Since even competent scientists perform more than one experiment to determine if a given theory is correct, our faculty should try again to implement student desires and perceived needs. They could promulgate guidelines to insure adequate coverage if necessary.

More importantly, as a major law school, Hofstra should fully prepare its graduates for legal careers. Do the members of the faculty know that over 80 percent of Hofstra Law students are going to practice law in New York State? Do they know that out-of-state schools such as New England School of Law offer a New York Civil Practice Course?

The law school's best resource is its students. No matter how prestigious, learned or innovative its instructors and administrators, students' performance after graduation will make Hofstra Law School something special. Students want a New York Procedure course. We are not convinced by "expressed reasonings" that we should be paternalistically protected from choosing such a course.

Let us not allow the faculty's judgement to get the better of us. In August, we urged involvement. Only the lack of student voices will deny us a CPLR course on a permanent basis. Let's get with it! Students can . . .

- Talk to teachers and encourage others to do the same.
- Hold meetings to consider possible action.
- Write letters to the Editor of Conscience.
- Distribute petitions.

Students—if you want the CPLR course—you must convince the faculty of its usefulness. We do not have much time.

### A QUESTION OF TIMING

#### A QUOTA FOR TRIAL TECHNIQUES

On Wednesday, October 1, 1980, a memo from Professor Abraham P. Ordovery informed students that a substantial change in the selection process for the two week January Trial Techniques Program had been instituted. Admission to the program, as in years past, will be limited to approximately 120 students. However, there will no longer be an absolute preference for third-year students who have completed Evidence. This year's quota limits enrollment to 80 third year and 40 second year students. THIS IS NOT FAIR!

The change in the NITA program selection process is not without merit. The proposal for a Certificate Program in Litigation sponsored by the Tom C. Clark Center for Advocacy at Hofstra Law School will enhance the Law School's status as a center for Trial and PreTrial practice, as well as give students an opportunity to develop, and later enhance, important practical legal skills. Conscience supports that program's establishment. But third year students who would otherwise have been able to take trial techniques are bearing the brunt of the change. Many graduating students planned their third-year schedules with the three credit NITA course in mind. In the extreme case, due to the short notice, a third-year student who planned to take Trial Techniques in January may not now have enough credits to graduate in June.

The program should be phased in. Stated quotas for this year's program could be filled within two years, though a phase-in period of three to four years would disadvantage the fewest students.

Undoubtedly, NLO (Neighborhood Law Office) students will better "assume the burdens of client representation" if they have taken the Trial Techniques course. In addition, NLO staffers can assume students who took Trial Techniques are trained in advocacy skills. But again, a phase-in period would better serve these goals. Students would be on notice that to guarantee selection for the NITA course, it is best to register for NLO. More students should be willing to serve at NLO and that program could expand greatly to the benefit of the prestige of H.U.S. of L. and to the community that NLO serves.

We are both shocked and appalled that the Directors of the NITA program gave such short notice. Treating law students, who are legal professionals, with such a lack of respect is UNCONSCIONABLE!

### Faculty Subcommittee

## PUBLIC HEARING

*Thursday, October 16, 1980*

**Room 238, 3:00 P.M.**

**Concerning Student's  
Right To Vote**

**At Faculty Meetings**

— Prove You Have A Voice —



## AGAINST



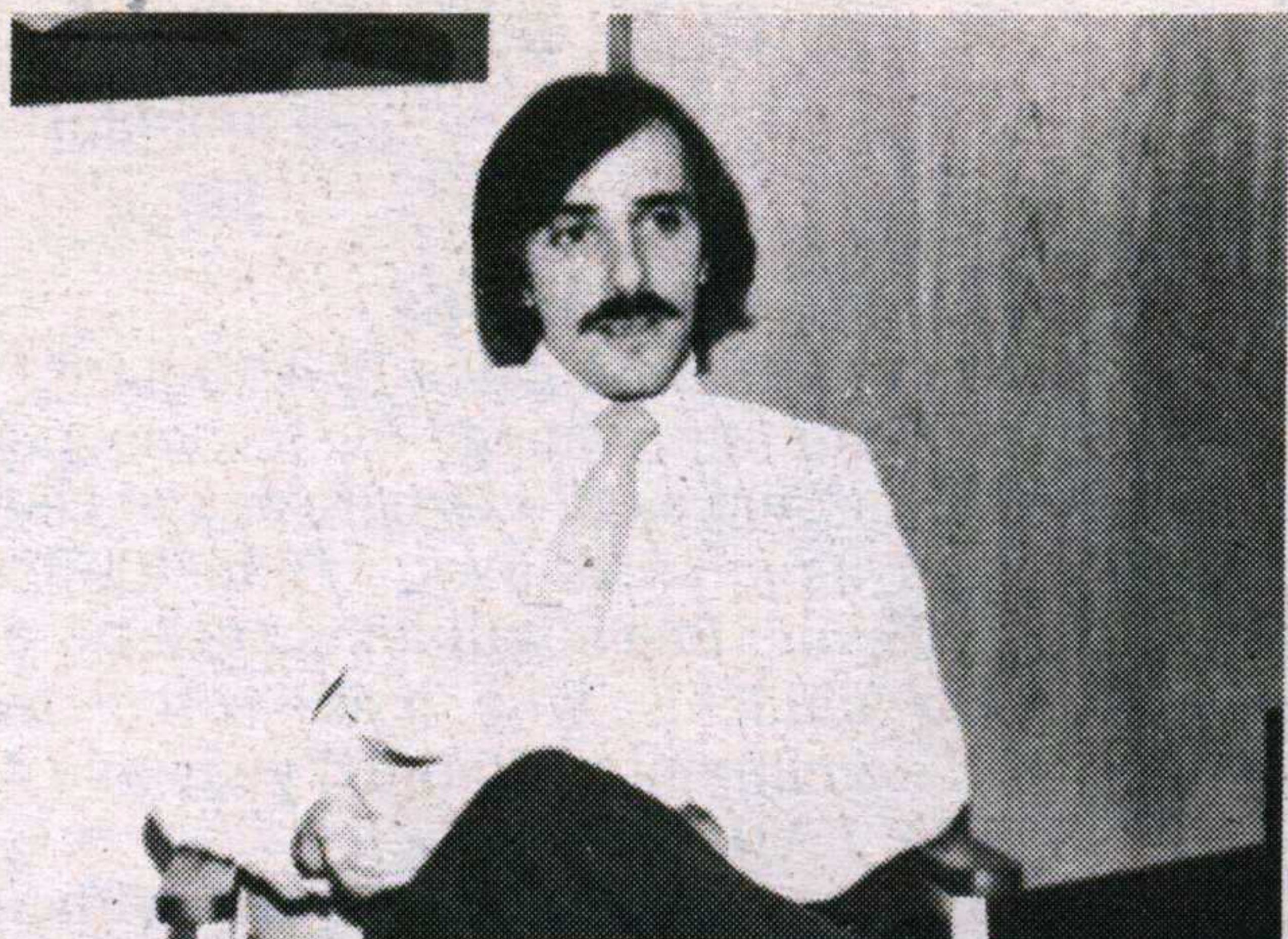
Dean John Regan



Professor John Gregory



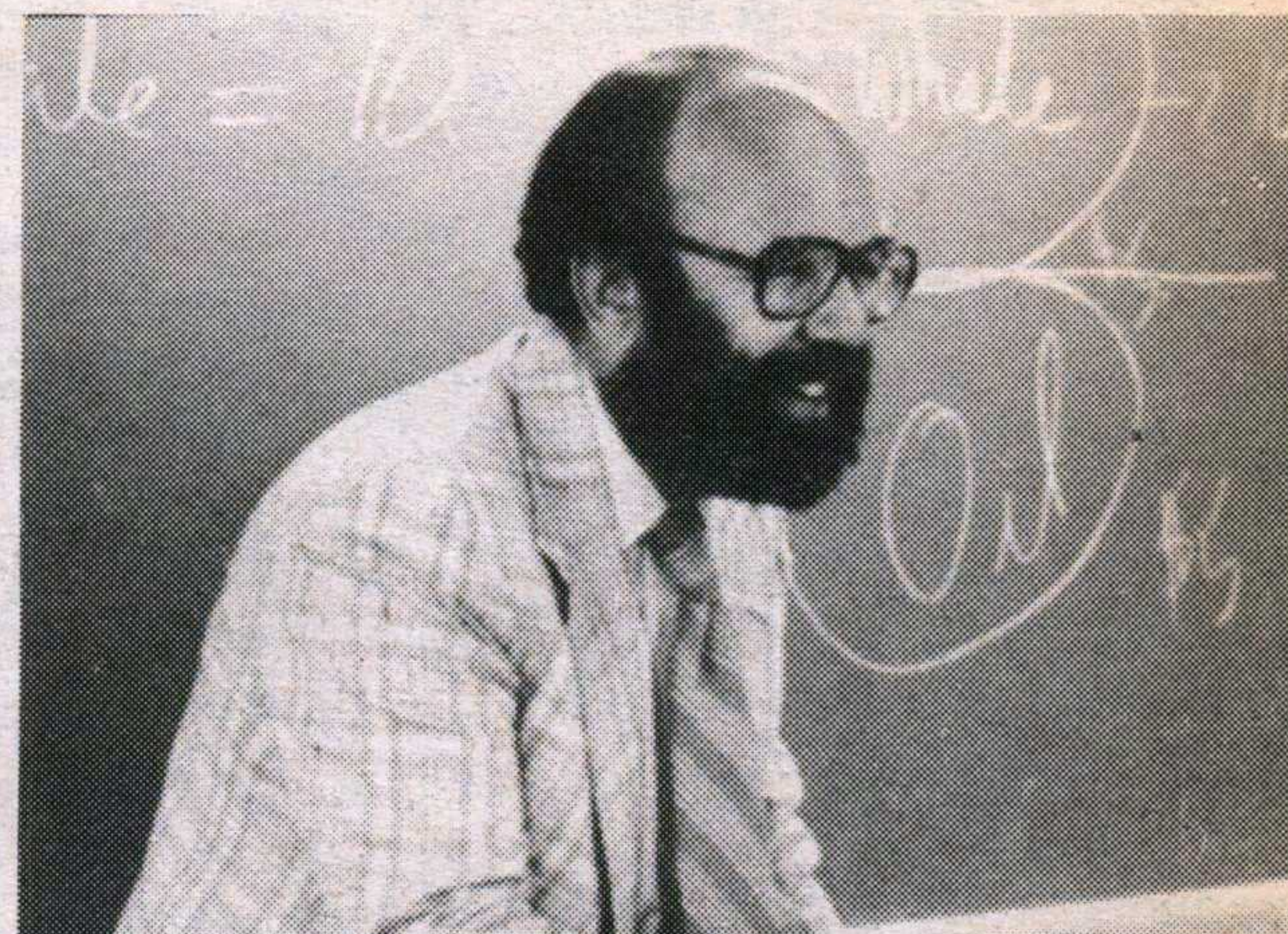
Professor Mitchell Gans



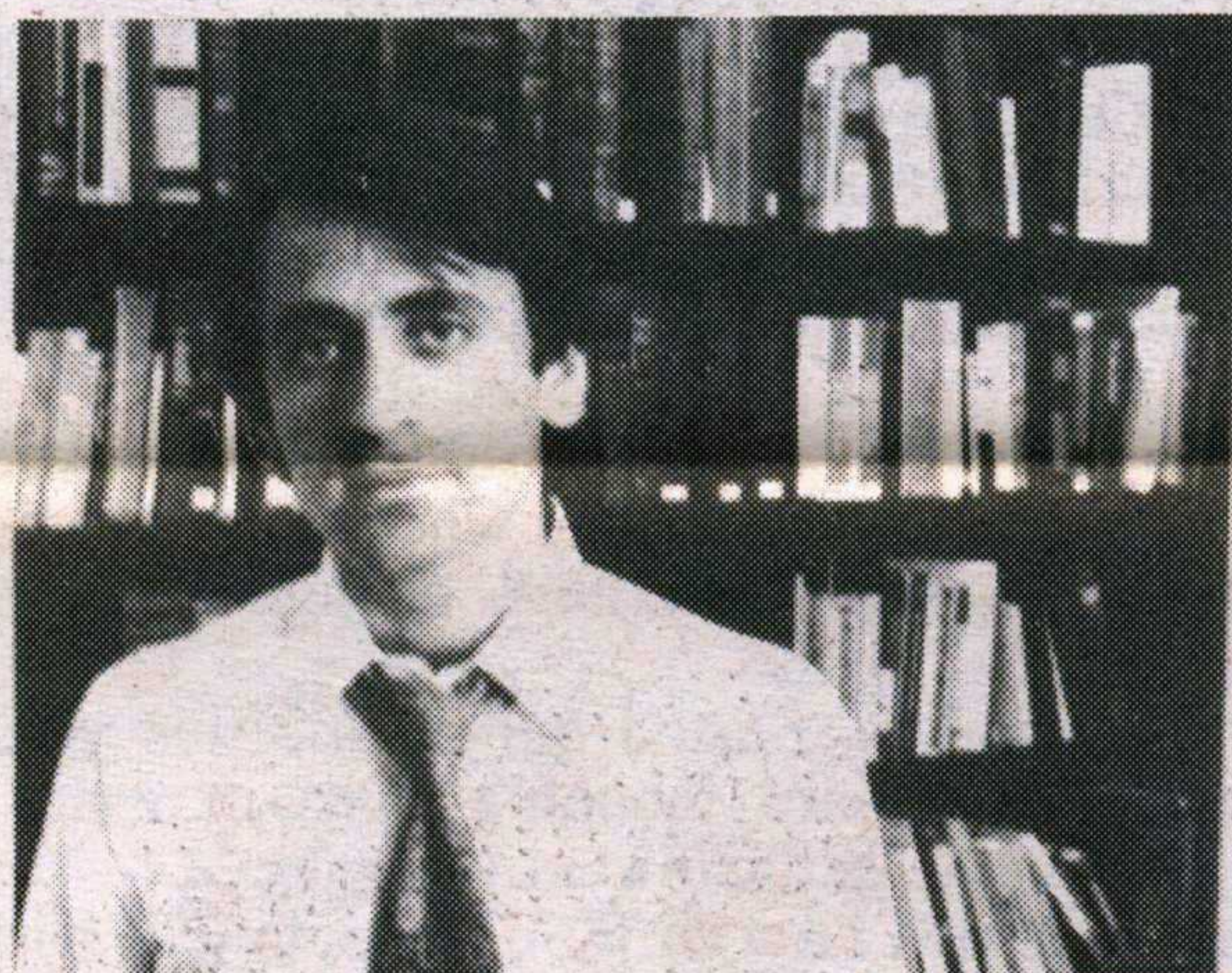
Dean Alan Resnick



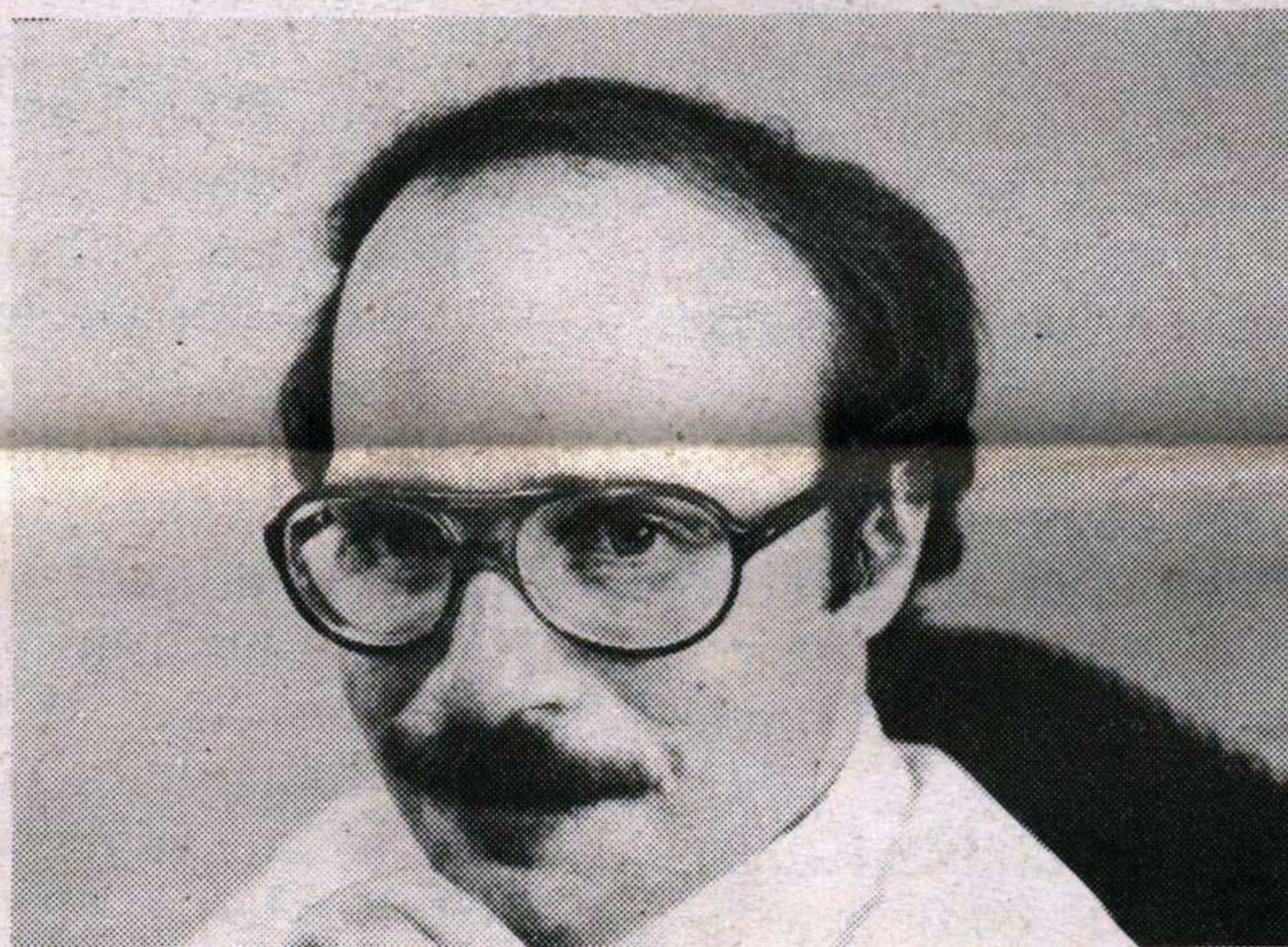
Professor Pat Adamski



Professor David Diamond



Professor Eric Lane



Professor Stu Rabinowitz



Professor David Kadane



Professor Burton Agata



Professor Abe Ordover



Professor Robert Bohrer

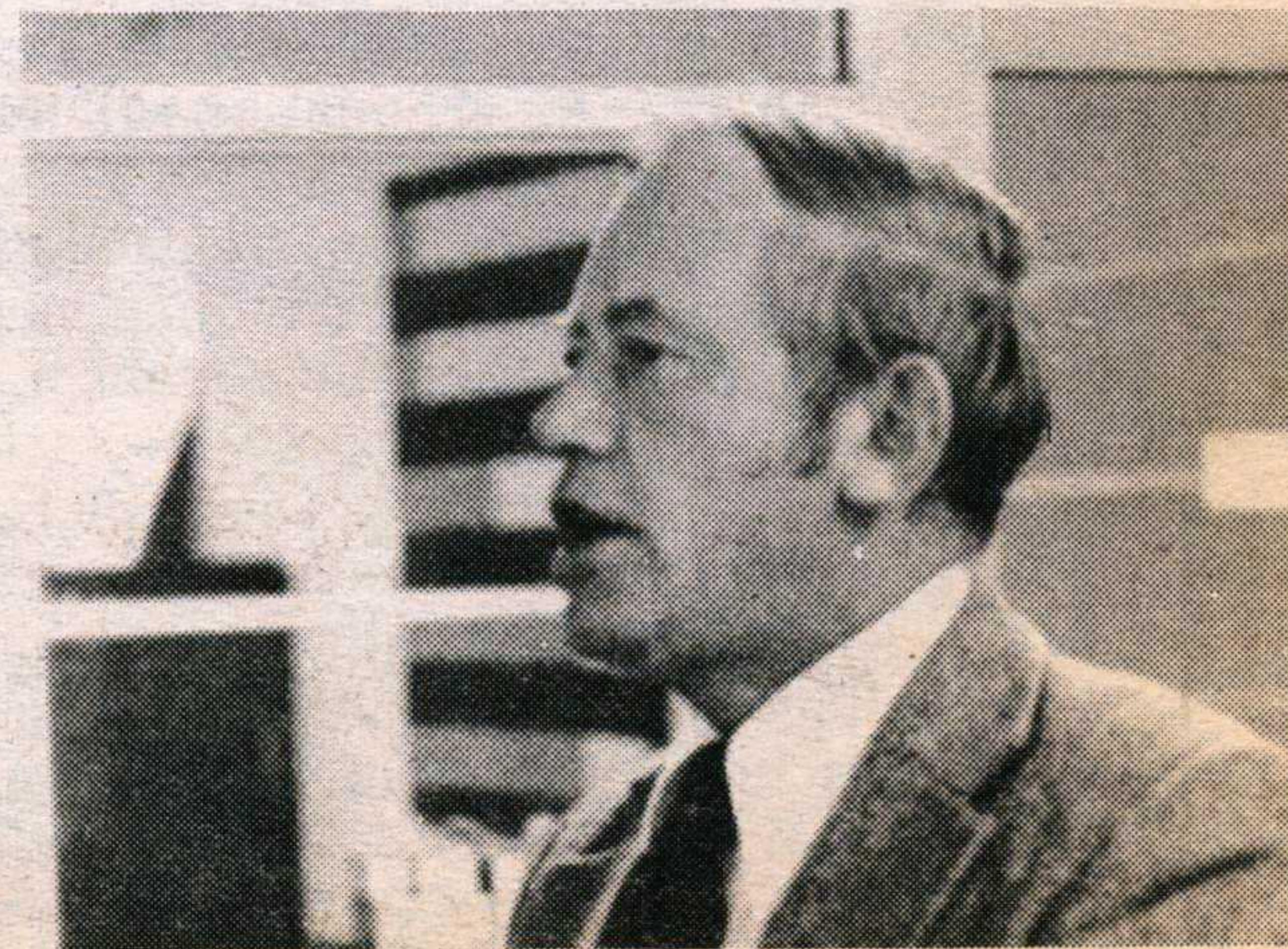
## FOR



Professor Linda Champlin



Professor Daniel Posin



Professor Eugene Wypyski

## ABSTAINED



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N.Y. CPLR REVIEW

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# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

The Marino Bar Review Course, with over thirty years of unequalled success preparing students for the New York Bar Exam, and the Josephson Bar Review Center (BRC), the nation's most innovative legal educator and most successful national bar reviewer, have joined forces to develop an extraordinary bar review program integrating the best features of both institutions. The result — a course perfectly designed to assure that you pass the new New York Multistate Bar Exam.

## Hofstra BRC Reps

Bonnie Raymond

Andrew Nathan

Stephen Levitt

Denise Cohen Wolfbiss

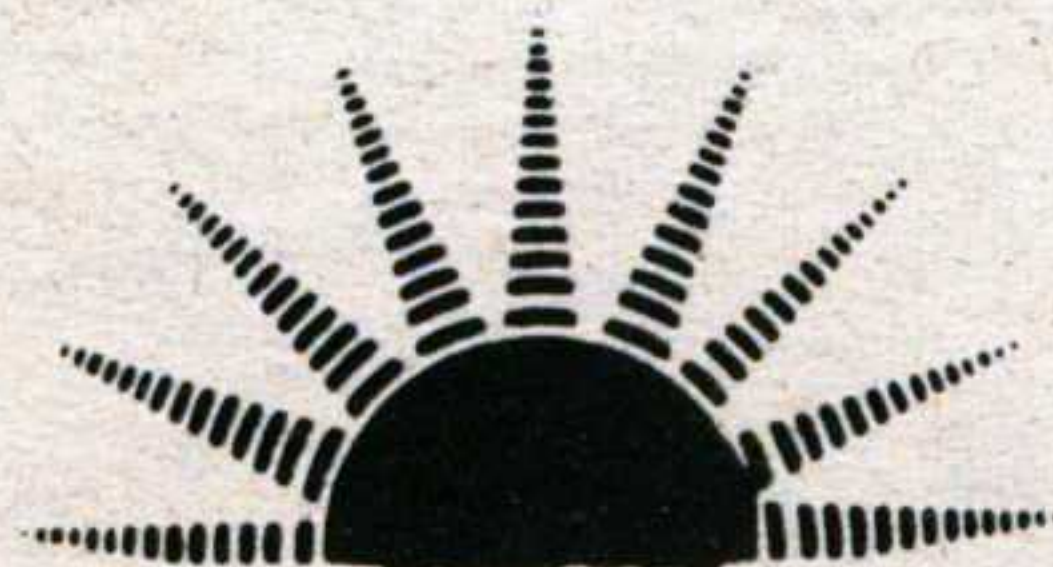
Susan Mandel

Phil Rogers

Alese Ginsburg

Jean Walsh

Nancy Santiago



**Marino-Josephson/BRC**

71 BROADWAY, 17th FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10006





**Will New York Add A  
Third Day To The Bar Exam?**

**THE 1981 CHANGES  
IN THE  
NEW YORK BAR EXAMINATION**

***An Analysis***

**By Stanley D. Chess, Esq.**

*Member of the New York and Washington, D.C. Bars,  
Director of the BAR/BRI New York Bar Review,  
Director of BAR/BRI's Northeast Multistate Programs*

**FREE CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH**

**Date: October 15**

**Time: 12:00 Noon**

**Place: Student Lounge**

***Discount \$1.00 Effective Through 10/15***

***Course Price: \$395 and \$45 Refundable Book Deposit***

***After Discount \$495***